# EXHIBIT "A"

#### Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County For Prothonotary Use Only (Docket Number) Trial Division OCTOBER 2022 000353 **Civil Cover Sheet** E-Filing Number: 2210005824 PLAINTIFF'S NAME DEFENDANT'S NAME GWENDOLYN DEMPS WALMART SUPERCENTER DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1675 S. COLUMBUS BOULEVARD PLAINTIFFS ADDRESS 1725 S. 32ND STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19145 PHILADELPHIA PA 19148 PLAINTIFFS NAME DEFENDANT'S NAME WALMART STORES, INC. DEFENDANTS ADDRESS 702 S.W. 8TH STREET PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS BENTONVILLE AR 72716 PLAINTIFF'S NAME DEFENDANT'S NAME WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST DEFENDANTS ADDRESS 702 S.W. 8TH STREET PLAINTIFFS ADDRESS BENTONVILLE AR 72716 COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS X Complaint ☐ Petition Action ☐ Notice of Appeal 1 ☐ Writ of Summons ☐ Transfer From Other Jurisdictions AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY COURT PROGRAMS Mass Tort ☐ Settlement Arbitration Commerce \$50,000.00 or less X Jury ☐ Savings Action ☐ Minor Court Appeal Minors ☐ Petition More than \$50,000.00 ☐ Statutory Appeals □ W/D/Survival Non-Jury Other: CASE TYPE AND CODE 2S - PREMISES LIABILITY, SLIP/FALL STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF ACTION RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST BY CASE CAPTION AND DOCKET NUMBER) FILED IS CASE SUBJECT TO COORDINATION ORDER? PRO PROTHY YES NO OCT **04** 2022 E. HAURIN TO THE PROTHONOTARY: Kindly enter my appearance on behalf of Plaintiff/Petitioner/Appellant: GWENDOLYN DEMPS Papers may be served at the address set forth below. NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APPELLANT'S ATTORNEY ADDRESS 1650 MARKET STREET MICHAEL A. PILEGGI 52ND FLOOR PHONE NUMBER FAX NUMBER PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 (215) 496-0999 (215) 496-8282 E-MAIL ADDRESS SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO. 320569 mpileggi@smbb.com SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY DATE SUBMITTED MICHAEL PILEGGI Tuesday, October 04, 2022, 05:12 pm

#### COMPLETE LIST OF DEFENDANTS:

- 1. WALMART SUPERCENTER 1675 S. COLUMBUS BOULEVARD PHILADELPHIA PA 19148
- 2. WALMART STORES, INC. 702 S.W. 8TH STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72716
- 3. WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST 702 S.W. 8TH STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72716
- 4. JOHN DOE (1-2) N/A N/A PA N/A

THIS IS NOT AN ARBITRATION MATTER.

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES HIPARTING Seed by the REQUIRED.

Office of Judicial Records

04 OCT 2022 05:22 pm

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

BY: ROBERT N. BRAKER/MICHAEL A. PILEGGI

IDENTIFICATION NOS. 62583/320569

1650 MARKET STREET

52ND FLOOR

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

P: (215) 496-8282 / F: (215) 496-0999

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

**GWENDOLYN DEMPS** 

1725 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street

Philadelphia, PA 19145

Plaintiff,

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

CIVIL DIVISION

NO.:

v.

OCTOBER TERM, 2022

WALMART SUPERCENTER

1675 S. Columbus Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA 19148

AND

WALMART STORES, INC.

702 S.W. 8th Street

Bentonville, AR 72716

AND

WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS

TRUST

702 S.W. 8th Street

Bentonville, AR 72716

AND

**JOHN DOE (1-2)** 

Defendants.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

#### NOTICE TO PLEAD

NOTICE

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take settion within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by an attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

"YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

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PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL and INFORMATION SERVICE One Reading Center Filladelphia, 7 consylvania 19107 (215) 238-1701 AVISO

Le han demandado en cone. Si usted quiere defenderse contra las demandas nombrodas en las páginas sigüientes, tiene veinte (20) dias, a pariri de recibir esta demanda y la notificatión para entablar personalmente o por un abogado una comparecencia escrita y tambien para entablar con la corte en forma escrita sus defensas y objectiones a las demandas contra asted. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, el caso puede continuar sin usted y la corte puede incarporar un juicio contra usted sin previo avisto para conteguir el dinero demandado en el pleito o para conseguir culquier otra demanda o alivio solicitados por el demandante. Usted puede perder dinero o propiedad u otros derechos importantes para usted.

USTED DEBE LLEVAR ESTE DOCUMENTO A SU ABOGADO INMEDIATAMENTE. SI USTED NO TIENE ABOGADO (O NO TIENE DINERO SUFICIENTE PARA PARGAR A UN ABOGADO), VAYA EN PERSONA O LLAME POR TELEFONO LA OFICINA NOMBRADA ABAJO PARA AVERIGUAR DONDE SE PUEDE CONSEGUIR ASSISTENCIA LEGAL. ESTA OFICINA PUEDE PROPORCIONARLE LA INFORMACION SOBRE CONTRATAR A UN ABOGADO.

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ASSOCIACION DE LICENDIADOS DE FILADELFIA SERVICO DE REFERENCA E INFORMACION LEGAL One Reading Center Filodelfia, Pennsylvanis 19107 Telefonor (215) 238-1701

### COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, claims of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), jointly and severally, separate sums in excess of \$50,000.00 in damages wherein the following are true statements:

- Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, is an adult individual, citizen of Pennsylvania, who resides at 1725 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145.
- 2. Defendant, Walmart Supercenter, is a business entity, organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular, systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County, with its principal place of business located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148.
- 3. Defendant, Walmart Stores, Inc., is a business entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arkansas, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular,

systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County with its principal place of business located at 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.

- 4. Defendant, Walmart Real Estate Business Trust is a business entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arkansas, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular, systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County with its principal place of business located at 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.
- 5. Defendant, John Doe (1-2), is an unknown individual, manager, company, controller, franchise, franchisor/franchisee, and/or owner of the property known as Walmart Supercenter, located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148, hereinafter referred to as the "the premises" at the times referenced herein, who Plaintiff could not identify despite a reasonable search.
- 6. At all times mentioned herein and material hereto, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), owned, managed, maintained, operated and controlled the property, including the interior of the premises, located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148.
- 7. On August 27, 2021, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), by and through their employees and/or agents were responsible for the proper maintenance and/or removal of any and all hazardous conditions located on and within the aforesaid premises.
- 8. Upon information and belief, at the aforesaid time and place, Defendants' employees and/or agents, acting within the course of their employment and scope of their authority, caused there to be and/or allowed there to remain, for a substantial period of time, a pool

of liquid on the floor of the premises of the aisle, in which Plaintiff was walking, and the aforesaid floor was left in a dangerously wet and slippery condition.

9. At the aforesaid time and place, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, was lawfully and properly a business invitee to the premises, and while walking on the aforesaid floor, was caused to slip and fall on the slick and slippery liquid condition and to suffer those serious and permanent injuries more specifically set forth hereinafter.

# COUNT I NEGLIGENCE GWENDOLYN DEMPS v. ALL DEFENDANTS

- 10. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 11. Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), by and through their separate and respective agents, employees, servants and/or workers, acting within the course of their employment and scope of their authority, were careless and negligent in:
  - a. Leaving the floor in a dangerously wet and slippery condition;
  - Creating a dangerously wet and slippery condition on the floor;
  - c. Failing to cordon off the wet area of the floor;
  - d. Failing to maintain the floor of the premises in a proper and safe condition;
  - Allowing the floor to remain in a slippery condition for an extended period of time;
  - Failing to warn individuals, including Plaintiff, of the dangerous and slippery nature of the floor;

- g. Failing to safely cordon off and/or use appropriately sized non-skid mats or other devices to make safe the area where a dangerous, slippery condition had accumulated;
- h. Allowing a danger to exist which Defendants knew or should have known would cause injuries to others, including Plaintiff;
- Failing to utilize appropriate warning signs/devices to alert individuals, including Plaintiff, of the dangerous condition that existed on said premises;
- j. Failing to take proper action to clean up the dangerous, slippery condition that existed on said premises prior to Plaintiff's fall despite their knowledge of the condition;
- k. Failing to maintain the aforementioned premises reasonably safe for persons such as Plaintiff;
- Failing to utilize a floor with non-slip properties;
- m. Failing to have proper policies and procedures in place pertaining to cleanup/removal of liquid on the premises which would have prevented harm to business invitees, including Plaintiff; and
- n. Failing to adequately monitor and supervise its employees and/or agents to ensure that their floors were safe for customers, including Plaintiff;
- Failing to adequately staff its store with a proper number of employees trained to detect and remedy hazardous/dangerous conditions on its premises; and
- p. Failing to adequately train its employees and/or agents to identify and remedy hazardous/dangerous conditions on its premises.
- 12. By reason of the carelessness and negligence of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), as aforesaid, by and through their separate and respective agents, employees, servants and/or workers, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, was caused to sustain serious, disabling and permanent personal injuries; she has sustained an acute comminuted fracture of the distal radius; she has sustained dorsal angulation and displacement; she sustained swelling about the wrist; she has suffered severe pain

in her wrist; she has been required to undergo extensive physical therapy; he has sustained further injury to the bones, muscles, nerves and ligaments of her body, the full extent of which have yet to be determined; she sustained other injuries to her nerves and nervous system; she sustained other orthopedic, neurologic and psychological injuries, the full extent of which has yet to be determined; she has in the past been required and may in the future continue to be required to submit to x-rays, EMGs, MRIs, and other diagnostic studies; she has in the past suffered and may in the future continue to suffer agonizing aches, pains, and mental anguish; she has in the past and may in the future continue to endure pain and suffering; she has in the past and may in the future continue to be disabled from performing her usual duties, occupations and avocations, all to her great loss and detriment; she has suffered a significant loss of life's pleasures; she has suffered from severe embarrassment and humiliation; she has incurred and will likely continue to incur medical bills indefinitely into the future.

- 13. By the reason of the carelessness and negligence of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter and Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), as aforesaid, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, has incurred various expenses, including medical expenses and bills, Plaintiff may be obligated to continue to expend monies and incur further obligations for her medical care and treatment, for an indefinite period of time in the future.
- 14. Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, has sustained and makes claim for pain and suffering, loss of physical function, physical, mental and psychological injuries, humiliation and embarrassment, loss of life's pleasures, loss of past earnings and future earning capacity and any and all other damages to which she is entitled or may be entitled under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, claims of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter and Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust and John Doe (1-2), jointly and severally, separate sums in excess of \$50,000.00 in damages and brings this action to recover same.

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

By:

ROBERT N. BRAKER, ESQUIRE

MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE

Attorneys for Plaintiff

# VERIFICATION

I, Gwendolyn Demps, have read the contents of the Complaint. I verify that the contents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that this verification is made pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: 9/26/2022 Mr. Swendolyn DEMPS

# EXHIBIT "B"

### AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

County of Philadelphia

Filed and Attested by the Office of Judicial Records 10 OCT 2022 03:38 pm MPERATOn Pleas Court

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

Case Number: OCTOBER 2022 0353

Plaintiff:

**GWENDOLYN DEMPS** 

VS.

Defendant:

WALMART SUPERCENTER et al

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY One Liberty - 52nd Floor 1650 Market St Philadelphia, PA 19103

Received by COURT HOUSE LEGAL SERVICES, INC. to be served on WALMART SUPERCENTER, 1675 S. COLUMBUS BLVD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19148.

I, Daniel Guida, being duly sworn, depose and say that on the 6th day of October, 2022 at 12:10 pm, I:

AUTHORIZED: served by delivering a true copy of the COMPLAINT to DALYA BARNES as MANAGER/AUTHORIZED AGENT, who stated they are authorized to accept service for: WALMART SUPERCENTER at the address of: 1675 S. COLUMBUS BLVD, PHILADELPHIA, PA 19148, and informed said person of the contents therein, in compliance with state statutes.

Description of Person Served: Age: 35, Sex: F, Race/Skin Color: BLACK, Height: 5'8, Weight: 190, Hair: BLACK, Glasses: N

I am over the age of 18 and have no interest in the above action.

Subscribed and Sworn to before me on the 7th day of October, 2022 by the affiant who is personally known to

me.

**NOTARY PUBLIC** 

Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Notary Seal Christopher J. Mullen, Notary Public Philadelphia County My commission expires May 27, 2023 Commission number 1227476

Daniel Guida **Process Server** 

**COURT HOUSE LEGAL SERVICES, INC.** 112 Haddontowne Ct, Ste. 304 Cherry Hill, NJ 08034 (856) 428-4700

Our Job Serial Number: CHL-2022009315 Ref: DEMPS

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C. ROBERT N. BRAKER, ESQUIRE #62583 MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE #320569 1650 MARKET STREET, 52ND FLOOR PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 P: (215) 496-8282 / F: (215) 496-0999



#### **GWENDOLYN DEMPS**

v.

WALMART SUPERCENTER, WALMART STORES, INC., WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN DOE (1-2) COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY LAW DIVISION

OCTOBER TERM, 2022 NO. 00353

# AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

SS

COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA:

MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and states that he is the attorney representing the plaintiff in the above captioned matter; that he is authorized to take this Affidavit; and that on October 5, 2022, the plaintiff's counsel did forward to Defendant, Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, a time-stamped copy of Plaintiff's Complaint by regular mail and certified mail, return receipt requested. A copy of the said correspondence and return receipt indicating date of delivery to be October 10, 2022, are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The undersigned understands that the statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904 relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

# SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

BY: <u>/s/ Michael A. Pileggi</u>
MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Plaintiff

מפת	The state of the	
280 0000 127n	Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)  Return Receipt (flardcopy)  Return Receipt (electronic)  Certified Mall Restricted Delivery  Adult Signature Required  Adult Signature Restricted Delivery \$  Postage	Postmark Here
2 6707	Total Postage and Fees  Sent To  Wal mare - Feal Estate  Street and Apr. No., or PO Sig No.  102 S. W. 8th Street  BENEN VILLE, AR 727  IS Form \$800, April 2015 PSN 753042 000 5047	18057

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
■ Complete items 1, 2, and 3.  ■ Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.  ■ Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.  1. Article Addressed to:  WALNAZY REAL EXPLACE BUSINES  702 S. W. 8th Street  BEND PUILLE, AR 7 27 116	A. Signature  X
	3. Service Type  ☐ Adult Signature ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery

### 



DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE 20 WEST THIRD STREET P.O. BOX 1670 MEDIA, PA 19063 VOICE 610.627.9777 FAX 610.627.9787 ONE LIBERTY PLACE, 52ND FLOOR 1650 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 VOICE 215.496.8282 FAX 215.496.0999 New Jersey Office 8000 Sagemore Drive Suite 8303 Marlton, NJ 08053 Voice 856.751.8383 Fax 856.751.0868

ROBERT N. BRAKER
DIRECT DIAL (215) 575-2985
RBRAKER@SMBB.COM

MICHAEL A. PILEGGI DIRECT DIAL (215) 575-3880 MPILEGGI@SMBB.COM MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE
120 GIBRALTAR RD
SUITE 218
HORSHAM, PA 19044
VOICE 215.496.8282
FAX 215.754.4443

October 5, 2022

# VIA CERTIFIED & REGULAR MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED #7019 2280 0000 1270 2898

Walmart Real Estate Business Trust 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bentonville, AR 72716

Re: Gwendolyn Demps v. Walmart Supercenter, et al.

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are hereby serving you with a Civil Action Complaint filed against you in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

Very truly yours,

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

BY: /s/ Michael A. Pileggi

ROBERT N. BRAKER, ESQUIRE MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE

RNB/MAP/kg Enclosure

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County For Prothonotary Use Only (Docket Number) Trial Division OCTOBER 2022 000353 **Civil Cover Sheet** E-Filing Number: 2210005824 DEFENDANT'S NAME PLAINTIFF'S NAME WALMART SUPERCENTER GWENDOLYN DEMPS DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 1675 S. COLUMBUS BOULEVARD PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS 1725 S. 32ND STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19148 PHILADELPHIA PA 19145 DEFENDANT'S NAME PLAINTIFF'S NAME WALMART STORES, INC. DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 702 S.W. 8TH STREET PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS BENTONVILLE AR 72716 DEFENDANT'S NAME PLAINTIFF'S NAME WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 702 S.W. 8TH STREET PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS BENTONVILLE AR 72716 COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS ☐ Notice of Appeal X Complaint Petition Action 1 Transfer From Other Jurisdictions ☐ Writ of Summons COURT PROGRAMS AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY Commerce ☐ Settlement ☐ Mass Tort Arbitration \$50,000,00 or less Savings Action Minor Court Appeal ☐ Minors X Jury □ W/D/Survival ☐ Non-Jury Petition ☐ Statutory Appeals More than \$50,000.00 Other: CASE TYPE AND CODE 2S - PREMISES LIABILITY, SLIP/FALL STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF ACTION IS CASE SUBJECT TO FILED RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST BY CASE CAPTION AND DOCKET NUMBER) COORDINATION ORDER? **PROPROTHY** YES NO OCT **04** 2022 E. HAURIN TO THE PROTHONOTARY: Kindly enter my appearance on behalf of Plaintiff/Petitioner/Appellant: GWENDOLYN DEMPS Papers may be served at the address set forth below. NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APPELLANT'S ATTORNEY **ADDRESS** 1650 MARKET STREET MICHAEL A. PILEGGI 52ND FLOOR PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 FAX NUMBER PHONE NUMBER (215)496-0999(215)496-8282E-MAIL ADDRESS SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO. mpileggi@smbb.com 320569 DATE SUBMITTED SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY Tuesday, October 04, 2022, 05:12 pm. 221000 MICHAEL PILEGGI

# COMPLETE LIST OF DEFENDANTS:

1. WALMART SUPERCENTER
1675 S. COLUMBUS BOULEVARD
PHILADELPHIA PA 19148

2. WALMART STORES, INC.
702 S.W. 8TH STREET
BENTONVILLE AR 72716

3. WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST 702 S.W. 8TH STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72716

4. JOHN DOE (1-2) N/A N/A PA N/A

THIS IS NOT AN ARBITRATION MATTER
ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES HIPARING Sed by the
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04 OCT 2022 05:12 pm

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BY: ROBERT N. BRAKER/MICHAEL A. PILEGGI

IDENTIFICATION NOS. 62583/320569

1650 MARKET STREET

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PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

P: (215) 496-8282 / F: (215) 496-0999

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

GWENDOLYN DEMPS

1725 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street Philadelphia, PA 19145

Plaint

Plaintiff,

V.

WALMART SUPERCENTER

1675 S. Columbus Boulevard Philadelphia, PA 19148

AND

WALMART STORES, INC.

702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bentonville, AR 72716

AND

WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS

TRUST

702 S.W. 8th Street

Bentonville, AR 72716

AND

**JOHN DOE (1-2)** 

Defendants.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY COURT OF COMMON PLEAS CIVIL DIVISION

**OCTOBER TERM, 2022** 

NO.:

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

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PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL and INFORMATION SERVICE One Reading Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 (215) 238-1701 Le han demandado en corte. Si usted quiere defenderse contra las demandas nombradas en las páginas siguientes, tiene veinte (20) días, a partir de recibir esta demanda y la notificación para entablar personalmente o por un abogado una comparecencia escrita y tambien para entablar con la corte en forma escrita sus defensas y objectiones a las demandas contra usted. Sea avisado que si usted no se defende, el caso puede continuar sin usted y la corte puede incorporar un juicio contra tusted sin previo aviso para conseguir el dinero demandado en el pleito o para

conseguir culquier otra demanda o alivio solicitados por el demandante. Usted puede perder

AVISO

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ASSOCIACION DE LICENDIADOS DE FILADELFIA SERVICO DE REFERENCA E INFORMACION LEGAL One Reading Center Filadelfia, Pennsylvania 19107 Telefono: (215) 238-1701

dinero o propiedad u otros derechos importantes para usted.

# COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, claims of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), jointly and severally, separate sums in excess of \$50,000.00 in damages wherein the following are true statements:

- 1. Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, is an adult individual, citizen of Pennsylvania, who resides at 1725 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145.
- 2. Defendant, Walmart Supercenter, is a business entity, organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular, systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County, with its principal place of business located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148.
- 3. Defendant, Walmart Stores, Inc., is a business entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arkansas, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular,

systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County with its principal place of business located at 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.

- 4. Defendant, Walmart Real Estate Business Trust is a business entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arkansas, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular, systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County with its principal place of business located at 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.
- 5. Defendant, John Doe (1-2), is an unknown individual, manager, company, controller, franchise, franchisor/franchisee, and/or owner of the property known as Walmart Supercenter, located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148, hereinafter referred to as the "the premises" at the times referenced herein, who Plaintiff could not identify despite a reasonable search.
- 6. At all times mentioned herein and material hereto, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doc (1-2), owned, managed, maintained, operated and controlled the property, including the interior of the premises, located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148.
- 7. On August 27, 2021, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), by and through their employees and/or agents were responsible for the proper maintenance and/or removal of any and all hazardous conditions located on and within the aforesaid premises.
- 8. Upon information and belief, at the aforesaid time and place, Defendants' employees and/or agents, acting within the course of their employment and scope of their authority, caused there to be and/or allowed there to remain, for a substantial period of time, a pool

of liquid on the floor of the premises of the aisle, in which Plaintiff was walking, and the aforesaid floor was left in a dangerously wet and slippery condition.

9. At the aforesaid time and place, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, was lawfully and properly a business invitee to the premises, and while walking on the aforesaid floor, was caused to slip and fall on the slick and slippery liquid condition and to suffer those serious and permanent injuries more specifically set forth hereinafter.

# COUNT I NEGLIGENCE GWENDOLYN DEMPS v. ALL DEFENDANTS

- 10. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 11. Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), by and through their separate and respective agents, employees, servants and/or workers, acting within the course of their employment and scope of their authority, were careless and negligent in:
  - a. Leaving the floor in a dangerously wet and slippery condition;
  - b. Creating a dangerously wet and slippery condition on the floor;
  - c. Failing to cordon off the wet area of the floor;
  - d. Failing to maintain the floor of the premises in a proper and safe condition;
  - e. Allowing the floor to remain in a slippery condition for an extended period of time;
  - f. Failing to warn individuals, including Plaintiff, of the dangerous and slippery nature of the floor;

- g. Failing to safely cordon off and/or use appropriately sized non-skid mats or other devices to make safe the area where a dangerous, slippery condition had accumulated;
- h. Allowing a danger to exist which Defendants knew or should have known would cause injuries to others, including Plaintiff;
- i. Failing to utilize appropriate warning signs/devices to alert individuals, including Plaintiff, of the dangerous condition that existed on said premises;
- j. Failing to take proper action to clean up the dangerous, slippery condition that existed on said premises prior to Plaintiff's fall despite their knowledge of the condition;
- k. Failing to maintain the aforementioned premises reasonably safe for persons such as Plaintiff;
- Failing to utilize a floor with non-slip properties;
- m. Failing to have proper policies and procedures in place pertaining to cleanup/removal of liquid on the premises which would have prevented harm to business invitees, including Plaintiff; and
- n. Failing to adequately monitor and supervise its employees and/or agents to ensure that their floors were safe for customers, including Plaintiff;
- o. Failing to adequately staff its store with a proper number of employees trained to detect and remedy hazardous/dangerous conditions on its premises; and
- p. Failing to adequately train its employees and/or agents to identify and remedy hazardous/dangerous conditions on its premises.
- 12. By reason of the carelessness and negligence of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), as aforesaid, by and through their separate and respective agents, employees, servants and/or workers, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, was caused to sustain serious, disabling and permanent personal injuries; she has sustained an acute comminuted fracture of the distal radius; she has sustained dorsal angulation and displacement; she sustained swelling about the wrist; she has suffered severe pain

in her wrist; she has been required to undergo extensive physical therapy; he has sustained further injury to the bones, muscles, nerves and ligaments of her body, the full extent of which have yet to be determined; she sustained other injuries to her nerves and nervous system; she sustained other orthopedic, neurologic and psychological injuries, the full extent of which has yet to be determined; she has in the past been required and may in the future continue to be required to submit to x-rays, EMGs, MRIs, and other diagnostic studies; she has in the past suffered and may in the future continue to suffer agonizing aches, pains, and mental anguish; she has in the past and may in the future continue to endure pain and suffering; she has in the past and may in the future continue to be disabled from performing her usual duties, occupations and avocations, all to her great loss and detriment; she has suffered a significant loss of life's pleasures; she has suffered from severe embarrassment and humiliation; she has incurred and will likely continue to incur medical bills indefinitely into the future.

- 13. By the reason of the carelessness and negligence of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter and Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), as aforesaid, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, has incurred various expenses, including medical expenses and bills, Plaintiff may be obligated to continue to expend monies and incur further obligations for her medical care and treatment, for an indefinite period of time in the future.
- 14. Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, has sustained and makes claim for pain and suffering, loss of physical function, physical, mental and psychological injuries, humiliation and embarrassment, loss of life's pleasures, loss of past earnings and future earning capacity and any and all other damages to which she is entitled or may be entitled under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, claims of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter and Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust and John Doe (1-2), jointly and severally, separate sums in excess of \$50,000.00 in damages and brings this action to recover same.

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

By:

ROBERT N. BRAKER, ESQUIRE MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE

Attorneys for Plaintiff

# VERIFICATION

I, Gwendolyn Demps, have read the contents of the Complaint. I verify that the contents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that this verification is made pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C. ROBERT N. BRAKER, ESQUIRE #62583 MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE #320569 1650 MARKET STREET, 52ND FLOOR PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103

P: (215) 496-8282 / F: (215) 496-0999



#### **GWENDOLYN DEMPS**

v.

WALMART SUPERCENTER, WALMART STORES, INC., WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN DOE (1-2) COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY LAW DIVISION

OCTOBER TERM, 2022 NO. 00353

# AFFIDAVIT OF SERVICE

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA:

SS

COUNTY OF PHILADELPHIA:

MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE, being duly sworn according to law, deposes and states that he is the attorney representing the plaintiff in the above captioned matter; that he is authorized to take this Affidavit; and that on October 5, 2022, the plaintiff's counsel did forward to Defendant, Walmart Stores, Inc., a time-stamped copy of Plaintiff's Complaint by regular mail and certified mail, return receipt requested. A copy of the said correspondence and return receipt indicating date of delivery to be October 10, 2022, are attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The undersigned understands that the statements therein are made subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S. Section 4904 relating to unsworn falsifications to authorities.

# SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

BY: <u>/s/ Michael A. Pileggi</u>
MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE
Attorney for Plaintiff

181	U.S. Postal Service <sup>™</sup> CERTIFIED MAIL <sup>®</sup> RE( Domestic Mail Only	CEIPT
7 B	For delivery information, visit our websit	e at www.usps.com®.
1270	OFFIC AL	USE
2280 0000	\$ Extra Services & Fees (check box, add fee as appropriate)    Return Receipt (hardcopy)	Postmark Here_
7019	Street and Apt. No., or PO Box No. 8th S.	t. 12010 See Reverse for Instructions

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION	COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY
<ul> <li>Complete items 1, 2, and 3.</li> <li>Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.</li> <li>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.</li> </ul>	A. Signature  X  B. Received by (Printed Name)  C. Date of Delivery
Article Addressed to:	D. Is delivery address different from item 1?  Yes If YES, enter delivery address below:  No
WALMART STOKES, INC. 702 S.W. 8th Street Bentonville, AR 7346	OCT 1 0 2022

### 



DELAWARE COUNTY OFFICE 20 WEST THIRD STREET P.O. BOX 1670 MEDIA, PA 19063 VOICE 610.627.9777 FAX 610.627.9787

ROBERT N. BRAKER
DIRECT DIAL (215) 575-2985
RBRAKER@SMBB.COM

MICHAEL A. PILEGGI DIRECT DIAL (215) 575-3880 MPILEGGI@SMBB.COM ONE LIBERTY PLACE, 52ND FLOOR 1650 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103 VOICE 215.496.8282 FAX 215.496.0999 New Jersey Office 8000 Sagemore Drive Suite 8303 Marlton, NJ 08053 Voice 856.751.8383 Fax 856.751.0868

MONTGOMERY COUNTY OFFICE
120 GIBRALTAR RD
SUITE 218
HORSHAM, PA 19044
VOICE 215.496.8282
FAX 215.754.4443

October 5, 2022

# VIA CERTIFIED & REGULAR MAIL RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED #7019 2280 0000 1270 2881

Walmart Stores, Inc. 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street Bentonville, AR 72716

Re: Gwendolyn Demps v. Walmart Supercenter, et al.

Dear Sir or Madam:

We are hereby serving you with a Civil Action Complaint filed against you in the Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County.

Very truly yours,

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

BY: /s/ Michael A. Pileggi

ROBERT N. BRAKER, ESQUIRE MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE

RNB/MAP/kg Enclosure

Court of Common Pleas of Philadelphia County For Prothonotary Use Only (Docket Number) Trial Division OCTOBER 2022 000353 Civil Cover Sheet E-Filing Number: 2210005824 DEFENDANT'S NAME PLAINTIFF'S NAME WALMART SUPERCENTER GWENDOLYN DEMPS DEFENDANTS ADDRESS 1675 S. COLUMBUS BOULEVARD plaintiffs address 1725 S. 32ND STREET PHILADELPHIA PA 19148 PHILADELPHIA PA 19145 DEFENDANT'S NAME PLAINTIFF'S NAME WALMART STORES, INC. DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 702 S.W. 8TH STREET PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS BENTONVILLE AR 72716 DEFENDANT'S NAME PLAINTIFF'S NAME WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST DEFENDANT'S ADDRESS 702 S.W. 8TH STREET PLAINTIFF'S ADDRESS BENTONVILLE AR 72716 COMMENCEMENT OF ACTION TOTAL NUMBER OF DEFENDANTS TOTAL NUMBER OF PLAINTIFFS ☐ Notice of Appeal Petition Action X Complaint 1 Transfer From Other Jurisdictions ☐ Writ of Summons COURT PROGRAMS AMOUNT IN CONTROVERSY Commerce Settlement ☐ Mass Tort ☐ Arbitration \$50,000.00 or less Savings Action Minor Court Appeal ☐ Minors Jury □ W/D/Survival More than \$50,000.00 ☐ Non-Jury Petition Statutory Appeals Other: CASE TYPE AND CODE 2S - PREMISES LIABILITY, SLIP/FALL STATUTORY BASIS FOR CAUSE OF ACTION IS CASE SUBJECT TO RELATED PENDING CASES (LIST BY CASE CAPTION AND DOCKET NUMBER) FILED COORDINATION ORDER? PRO PROTHY YES NO OCT **04** 2022 E. HAURIN TO THE PROTHONOTARY: Kindly enter my appearance on behalf of Plaintiff/Petitioner/Appellant: GWENDOLYN DEMPS Papers may be served at the address set forth below. NAME OF PLAINTIFF'S/PETITIONER'S/APPELLANT'S ATTORNEY ADDRESS 1650 MARKET STREET MICHAEL A. PILEGGI 52ND FLOOR PHILADELPHIA PA 19103 FAX NUMBER PHONE NUMBER (215)496-0999(215)496-8282E-MAIL ADDRESS SUPREME COURT IDENTIFICATION NO. mpileggi@smbb.com 320569 DATE SUBMITTED SIGNATURE OF FILING ATTORNEY OR PARTY Tuesday, October 04, 2022, 05:12 pm D: 221000 MICHAEL PILEGGI

# COMPLETE LIST OF DEFENDANTS:

1. WALMART SUPERCENTER
1675 S. COLUMBUS BOULEVARD
PHILADELPHIA PA 19148

2. WALMART STORES, INC.

702 S.W. 8TH STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72716

3. WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST 702 S.W. 8TH STREET BENTONVILLE AR 72716

4. JOHN DOE (1-2) N/A N/A PA N/A

THIS IS NOT AN ARBITRATION MATTER.

ASSESSMENT OF DAMAGES HEART CERTS by the REQUIRED.

Office of Judicial Records

04 OCT 2022 05:12 pm

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

BY: ROBERT N. BRAKER/MICHAEL A. PILEGGI

IDENTIFICATION NOS. 62583/320569

1650 MARKET STREET

52ND FLOOR

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19103

P: (215) 496-8282 / F: (215) 496-0999

ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

**GWENDOLYN DEMPS** 

1725 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street

Philadelphia, PA 19145

Plaintiff,

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY
COURT OF COMMON PLEAS
CIVIL DIVISION

 $V_{\star}$ 

OCTOBER TERM, 2022

NO.:

WALMART SUPERCENTER

1675 S. Columbus Boulevard

Philadelphia, PA 19148

AND

WALMART STORES, INC.

702 S.W. 8th Street

Bentonville, AR 72716

AND

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS

TRUST

702 S.W. 8th Street

Bentonville, AR 72716

AND

JOHN DOE (1-2)

Defendants.

# NOTICE TO PLEAD

NOTICE

You have been sued in court. If you wish to defend against the claims set forth in the following pages, you must take action within twenty (20) days after this complaint and notice are served, by entering a written appearance personally or by an attorney and filing in writing with the court your defenses or objections to the claims set forth against you. You are warned that if you fail to do so the case may proceed without you and a judgment may be entered against you by the court without further notice for any money claimed in the complaint or for any other claim or relief requested by the plaintiff. You may lose money or property or other rights important to you.

"YOU SHOULD TAKE THIS PAPER TO YOUR LAWYER AT ONCE. IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A LAWYER OR CANNOT AFFORD ONE, GO TO OR TELEPHONE THE OFFICE SET FORTH BELOW TO FIND OUT WHERE YOU CAN GET LEGAL HELP.

THIS OFFICE CAN PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT HIRING A LAWYER.

IF YOU CANNOT AFFORD TO HIRE A LAWYER, THIS OFFICE MAY BE ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH INFORMATION ABOUT AGENCIES THAT MAY OFFER LEGAL SERVICES TO ELIGIBLE PERSONS AT A REDUCED FEE OR NO FEE.

PHILADELPHIA BAR ASSOCIATION LAWYER REFERRAL and INFORMATION SERVICE One Reading Center Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19107 (215) 238-1701 Le han demandado en corte. Si usted quiere defenderse contra las demandas nombradas en las páginas siguientes, tiene veinte (20) dias, a partir de recibir esta demanda y la notificación para entablar personalmente o por un abogado una comperceencia escrita y tambien para entablar con la corte en forma escrita sus defensas y objectiones a las demandas contra usted. Sea avisado que si usted no se defiende, el caso puede continuar sin usted y la corte puede incorporar un juicio contra usted sin previo aviso para conseguir el dinero demandado en el platto o para conseguir culquier otra demanda o alivio solicitados por el demandante. Usted puede perder dinero o propiedad u otros derechos importantes para usted.

AVISO

USTED DEBE LLEVAR ESTE DOCUMENTO A SU ABOGADO INMEDIATAMENTE. SI USTED NO TIENE ABOGADO (O NO TIENE DINFRO SUFICIENTE PARA PARGAR A UN ABOGADO), VAYA EN PERSONA O LLAME POR TELEFONO LA OFICINA NOMBRADA ABAJO PARA AVERIGUAR DONDE SE PUEDE CONSEGUIR ASSISTENCIA LEGAL. ESTA OFICINA PUEDE PROPORCIONARLE LA INFORMACION SOBRE CONTRATAR A UN ABOGADO.

SI USTED NO TIENE DINERO SUFICIENTE PARA PAGAR À UN ABOGADO, ESTA OFICINA PUEDE PROPORCIONARLE INFORMACION SOBRE AGENCIAS QUE OFRECEN SERVICIOS LEGALES A PERSONAS QUE CUMPLEN LOS REQUISITOS PARA UN HONORARIO REDUCIDO O NINGUN HONORARIO.

ASSOCIACION DE LICENDIADOS DE FILADELFIA SERVICO DE REFERENCA E INFORMACION LEGAL One Reading Center Filadelfia, Pennsylvania 19107 Telefono: (215) 238-1701

# COMPLAINT

Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, claims of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), jointly and severally, separate sums in excess of \$50,000.00 in damages wherein the following are true statements:

- 1. Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, is an adult individual, citizen of Pennsylvania, who resides at 1725 S. 32<sup>nd</sup> Street, Philadelphia, PA 19145.
- 2. Defendant, Walmart Supercenter, is a business entity, organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular, systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County, with its principal place of business located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148.
- 3. Defendant, Walmart Stores, Inc., is a business entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arkansas, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular,

systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County with its principal place of business located at 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.

- 4. Defendant, Walmart Real Estate Business Trust is a business entity organized and existing under the laws of the State of Arkansas, and which at all times relevant hereto, engaged in regular, systematic, continuous and substantial business within Philadelphia County with its principal place of business located at 702 S.W. 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Bentonville, AR 72716.
- 5. Defendant, John Doe (1-2), is an unknown individual, manager, company, controller, franchise, franchisor/franchisee, and/or owner of the property known as Walmart Supercenter, located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148, hereinafter referred to as the "the premises" at the times referenced herein, who Plaintiff could not identify despite a reasonable search.
- 6. At all times mentioned herein and material hereto, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), owned, managed, maintained, operated and controlled the property, including the interior of the premises, located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148.
- 7. On August 27, 2021, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), by and through their employees and/or agents were responsible for the proper maintenance and/or removal of any and all hazardous conditions located on and within the aforesaid premises.
- 8. Upon information and belief, at the aforesaid time and place, Defendants' employees and/or agents, acting within the course of their employment and scope of their authority, caused there to be and/or allowed there to remain, for a substantial period of time, a pool

of liquid on the floor of the premises of the aisle, in which Plaintiff was walking, and the aforesaid floor was left in a dangerously wet and slippery condition.

9. At the aforesaid time and place, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, was lawfully and properly a business invitee to the premises, and while walking on the aforesaid floor, was caused to slip and fall on the slick and slippery liquid condition and to suffer those serious and permanent injuries more specifically set forth hereinafter.

# COUNT I NEGLIGENCE GWENDOLYN DEMPS v. ALL DEFENDANTS

- 10. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 11. Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), by and through their separate and respective agents, employees, servants and/or workers, acting within the course of their employment and scope of their authority, were careless and negligent in:
  - a. Leaving the floor in a dangerously wet and slippery condition;
  - b. Creating a dangerously wet and slippery condition on the floor;
  - c. Failing to cordon off the wet area of the floor;
  - d. Failing to maintain the floor of the premises in a proper and safe condition;
  - e. Allowing the floor to remain in a slippery condition for an extended period of time;
  - f. Failing to warn individuals, including Plaintiff, of the dangerous and slippery nature of the floor;

- g. Failing to safely cordon off and/or use appropriately sized non-skid mats or other devices to make safe the area where a dangerous, slippery condition had accumulated;
- h. Allowing a danger to exist which Defendants knew or should have known would cause injuries to others, including Plaintiff;
- i. Failing to utilize appropriate warning signs/devices to alert individuals, including Plaintiff, of the dangerous condition that existed on said premises;
- j. Failing to take proper action to clean up the dangerous, slippery condition that existed on said premises prior to Plaintiff's fall despite their knowledge of the condition;
- k. Failing to maintain the aforementioned premises reasonably safe for persons such as Plaintiff;
- 1. Failing to utilize a floor with non-slip properties;
- m. Failing to have proper policies and procedures in place pertaining to cleanup/removal of liquid on the premises which would have prevented harm to business invitees, including Plaintiff; and
- n. Failing to adequately monitor and supervise its employees and/or agents to ensure that their floors were safe for customers, including Plaintiff;
- o. Failing to adequately staff its store with a proper number of employees trained to detect and remedy hazardous/dangerous conditions on its premises; and
- p. Failing to adequately train its employees and/or agents to identify and remedy hazardous/dangerous conditions on its premises.
- 12. By reason of the carelessness and negligence of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), as aforesaid, by and through their separate and respective agents, employees, servants and/or workers, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, was caused to sustain serious, disabling and permanent personal injuries; she has sustained an acute comminuted fracture of the distal radius; she has sustained dorsal angulation and displacement; she sustained swelling about the wrist; she has suffered severe pain

in her wrist; she has been required to undergo extensive physical therapy; he has sustained further injury to the bones, muscles, nerves and ligaments of her body, the full extent of which have yet to be determined; she sustained other injuries to her nerves and nervous system; she sustained other orthopedic, neurologic and psychological injuries, the full extent of which has yet to be determined; she has in the past been required and may in the future continue to be required to submit to x-rays, EMGs, MRIs, and other diagnostic studies; she has in the past suffered and may in the future continue to suffer agonizing aches, pains, and mental anguish; she has in the past and may in the future continue to endure pain and suffering; she has in the past and may in the future continue to be disabled from performing her usual duties, occupations and avocations, all to her great loss and detriment; she has suffered a significant loss of life's pleasures; she has suffered from severe embarrassment and humiliation; she has incurred and will likely continue to incur medical bills indefinitely into the future.

- 13. By the reason of the carelessness and negligence of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter and Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust, and John Doe (1-2), as aforesaid, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, has incurred various expenses, including medical expenses and bills, Plaintiff may be obligated to continue to expend monies and incur further obligations for her medical care and treatment, for an indefinite period of time in the future.
- 14. Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, has sustained and makes claim for pain and suffering, loss of physical function, physical, mental and psychological injuries, humiliation and embarrassment, loss of life's pleasures, loss of past earnings and future earning capacity and any and all other damages to which she is entitled or may be entitled under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Gwendolyn Demps, claims of Defendants, Walmart Supercenter and Walmart Stores Inc., Walmart Real Estate Business Trust and John Doe (1-2), jointly and severally, separate sums in excess of \$50,000.00 in damages and brings this action to recover same.

SALTZ MONGELUZZI & BENDESKY P.C.

By:

ROBERT N. BRAZER, ESQUIRE MICHAEL A. PILEGGI, ESQUIRE

Attorneys for Plaintiff

## VERIFICATION

I, Gwendolyn Demps, have read the contents of the Complaint. I verify that the contents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that this verification is made pursuant to 42 Pa.C.S. § 4904 (relating to unsworn falsification to authorities).

Date: 9/26/2022 M. Swendolph Damps

# EXHIBIT "C"

282.389

### MCDONNELL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: Patrick J. McDonnell, Esq. Attorney I.D. No. 62310

Email: pmcdonnell@mcda-law.com By: Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esq.

Attorney I.D. No. 319219

Email: gwilliams@mcda-law.com

500 Marlton Pike West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

(T) 856-429-5300 (F) 856-310-7900

Filed and Attested by the
Office of Judicial Records
You are hereby housed to Dead

To Plaintiff: You are hereby house of lead to the enclosed New Matter virtually (20) days of service hereof or judgment may be entered against you.

/s/ Gwyneth R. Schrager
Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire
Attorney for Defendants

GWENDOLYN DEMPS,

Plaintiff,

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

v.

: OCTOBER TERM, 2022

: NO. 00353

WALMART SUPERCENTER AND WALMART STORES, INC. AND WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN

DOE (1-2),

Defendants.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

#### DEFENDANTS' ANSWER TO PLAINTIFF'S COMPLAINT WITH NEW MATTER

Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., and Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust (hereinafter referred to collectively as "Walmart"), by and through their undersigned counsel, McDonnell & Associates, P.C., hereby answer Plaintiff's Complaint, generally deny the allegations of Plaintiff's Complaint pursuant to Pa. R.C.P. 1029(e), and assert their New Matter in accordance with the Pennsylvania Rules of Civil Procedure as follows:

- 1. Denied. These averments make no allegations against Walmart.
- 2. Denied. "Walmart Supercenter" is not a legally recognized entity.
- 3. Admitted in part and denied in part. It is admitted only that Walmart Inc. (formerly known as Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.) has its principal place of business at the address averred. The remaining averments are denied. By way of further answer, Walmart Inc. is a Delaware corporation.

Case ID: 221000353

- 4. Denied. Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust is a Delaware statutory trust with its principal place of business located in Bentonville, Arkansas.
  - 5. Walmart need not answer these averments as they are directed toward other parties.
- 6. Admitted in part and denied in part. It is admitted only that Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust owned the subject premises at all material times. The remaining averments are denied. By way of further answer, Wal-Mart Stores East, LP leased and operated the subject premises at all material times. Wal-Mart Stores East, LP is a Delaware limited partnership with its principal place of business located in Bentonville, Arkansas.
- 7. Denied. After reasonable investigation, Walmart is unable to answer averments regarding unnamed employees and/or agents; these allegations are therefore denied. The remaining averments are generally denied pursuant to Rule 1029(e).
- 8. Denied. After reasonable investigation, Walmart is unable to answer averments regarding unnamed employees and/or agents; these allegations are therefore denied. The remaining averments are generally denied pursuant to Rule 1029(e).
- 9. Admitted in part and denied in part. It is admitted only that Plaintiff was present at Walmart Store #2141, located at 1675 S. Columbus Boulevard, Philadelphia, PA 19148, on the date averred. The remaining averments are generally denied pursuant to Rule 1029(e).

# COUNT I NEGLIGENCE GWENDOLYN DEMPS v. ALL DEFENDANTS

- 10. Walmart hereby incorporates by reference the preceding paragraphs as though set forth at length herein.
- 11. (a) (p). Denied. After reasonable investigation, Walmart is unable to answer averments regarding unnamed agents, employees, servants and/or workers; these allegations are

Case ID: 221000353

therefore denied. The remaining averments contained within Paragraph 11 and its subparts are

generally denied pursuant to Rule 1029(e).

12. Denied. After reasonable investigation, Walmart is unable to answer averments

regarding unnamed agents, employees, servants and/or workers; these allegations are therefore

denied. The remaining averments are generally denied pursuant to Rule 1029(e).

13. Denied. These averments are generally denied pursuant to Rule 1029(e).

14. Denied. These averments are generally denied pursuant to Rule 1029(e).

WHEREFORE, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., and Wal-Mart

Real Estate Business Trust, hereby demand judgment in their favor and against Plaintiff, together

with costs and attorneys' fees in this matter.

**NEW MATTER** 

15. If Plaintiff failed to follow the advice and direction of her health care providers

regarding recommended treatment, then Plaintiff's recovery is barred or reduced by her failure to

mitigate damages.

16. If Plaintiff sustained damages, such damages were caused by the negligence of a

third party or parties over which Walmart exercised no control.

17. If Plaintiff sustained damages, such damages were caused by intervening or

superseding events or factors over which Walmart exercised no control.

18. If Plaintiff executed a Release releasing any person or entity from liability arising

from the accident or occurrence described in Plaintiff's Complaint, Walmart is similarly released

from any such liability.

19. If Plaintiff seeks compensatory damages for expenses related to medical tests, medications, and treatment, such damages are reduced by the holding in <u>Moorhead v. Crozer</u>

<u>Chester Medical Center</u>, 557 Pa. 630 (1998) to the amounts actually due and payable.

WHEREFORE, Defendants, Walmart Supercenter, Walmart Stores, Inc., and Wal-Mart Real Estate Business Trust, hereby demand judgment in their favor and against Plaintiff, together with costs and attorneys' fees in this matter.

### McDONNELL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Dated: October 26, 2022 By: <u>/s/ Gwyneth R. Schrager</u>

Patrick J. McDonnell, Esquire Attorney I.D. No. 62310

Email: <a href="mailto:pmcdonnell@mcda-law.com">pmcdonnell@mcda-law.com</a>
Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire
Attorney I.D. No. 319219

Email: <a href="mailto:gwilliams@mcda-law.com">gwilliams@mcda-law.com</a>

500 Route 70 West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

(T) 856.429.5300 (F) 856.310.7900

Attorneys for Defendants

v.

GWENDOLYN DEMPS, **COURT OF COMMON PLEAS** 

Plaintiff, PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

OCTOBER TERM, 2022

WALMART SUPERCENTER AND NO. 00353

WALMART STORES, INC. AND WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN

DOE (1-2),

Defendants.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

#### **VERIFICATION**

I, Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire, hereby verify and state that I am counsel for Defendants in the above-referenced action and that the facts set forth in Defendants' Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint with New Matter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. A manager verification was unavailable at the time of filing, but a substitute verification is forthcoming. I understand that I make this verification subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

/s/ Gwyneth R. Schrager Dated: October 26, 2022 By:

Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire Attorneys for Defendants

\_\_\_\_

GWENDOLYN DEMPS, : COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Plaintiff, : PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

: OCTOBER TERM, 2022

WALMART SUPERCENTER AND : NO. 00353

WALMART STORES, INC. AND WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN

v.

REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN DOE (1-2),

Defendants.

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire hereby certify that on October 26, 2022, Defendants' Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint with New Matter was filed electronically with the Court and is available for viewing and downloading from the First Judicial District Electronic Filing System. The filed document was served via electronic mail by the First Judicial District Electronic Filing System on the following registered E-Filing User:

Robert N. Braker, Esq. Michael A. Pileggi, Esq. Saltz Mongeluzzi & Bendesky, P.C. 1650 Market Street, 52nd Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103 Attorneys for Plaintiff

McDONNELL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

Dated: October 26, 2022 By: <u>/s/ Gwyneth R. Schrager</u>

Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire *Attorneys for Defendants* 

282.389

#### MCDONNELL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: Patrick J. McDonnell, Esq.

Attorney I.D. No. 62310

Email: pmcdonnell@mcda-law.com By: Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esq. Attorney I.D. No. 319219

Email: gwilliams@mcda-law.com

500 Marlton Pike West Cherry Hill, NJ 08002

(T) 856-429-5300 (F) 856-310-7900

Filed and Att Office of Judicial Records 04 NOV 2022 03:37 pm

Attorneys for Defendants

GWENDOLYN DEMPS,

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS : PHILADELPHIA COUNTY Plaintiff,

v.

OCTOBER TERM, 2022

WALMART SUPERCENTER AND : NO. 00353 WALMART STORES, INC. AND WALMART

REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN

DOE (1-2),

: JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

# PRAECIPE TO SUBSTITUTE VERIFICATION

Kindly substitute the enclosed verification to Defendants' Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint with New Matter which was filed with the court on October 26, 2022.

McDonnell & Associates, P.C.

Dated: November 4, 2022 By: /s/ Gwyneth R. Schrager

> Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire Attorneys for Defendants

> > Case ID: 221000353

# se 2:22-cv-04439-MAK Document 1-2 Filed 11/04/22 Page 50 of

GWENDOLYN DEMPS, Plaintiff,

Ŋ,

WALMART SUPERCENTER AND WALMART STORES, INC. AND WALMART REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN DOE (1-2),

Defendants.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

OCTOBER TERM, 2022 NO. 00353

JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

#### VERIFICATION

I, Frank Pellicori, hereby verify and state that I am Store Manager of Walmart Store #2141 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and that the facts set forth in Defendants' Answer to Plaintiff's Complaint with New Matter are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I understand that I make this verification subject to the penalties of 18 Pa. C.S.A. § 4904 relating to unsworn falsification to authorities.

Dated: October 27, 2022

By:

Frank Pellicori

282.389

#### MCDONNELL & ASSOCIATES, P.C.

By: Patrick J. McDonnell, Esq.

Attorney I.D. No. 62310

Email: pmcdonnell@mcda-law.com By: Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esq. Attorney I.D. No. 319219

Email: gwilliams@mcda-law.com

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(T) 856-429-5300 (F) 856-310-7900

Attorneys for Defendants

: COURT OF COMMON PLEAS GWENDOLYN DEMPS,

> Plaintiff, : PHILADELPHIA COUNTY

v.

OCTOBER TERM, 2022

WALMART SUPERCENTER AND : NO. 00353 WALMART STORES, INC. AND WALMART

REAL ESTATE BUSINESS TRUST and JOHN

DOE (1-2), : JURY TRIAL DEMANDED

Defendants.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I, Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire hereby certify the foregoing Praecipe to Substitute Verification on behalf of the Defendants was filed electronically with the Court and is available for viewing and downloading from the First Judicial District Electronic Filing System. The filed document was served via electronic mail by the First Judicial District Electronic Filing System on the following registered E-Filing Users:

> Robert N. Braker, Esq. Michael A. Pileggi, Esq. Saltz Mongeluzzi & Bendesky, P.C. 1650 Market Street, 52nd Floor Philadelphia, PA 19103 Attorneys for Plaintiff

> > McDonnell & Associates, P.C.

Dated: November 4, 2022 /s/ Gwyneth R. Schrager By:

Gwyneth R. Schrager, Esquire Attorneys for Defendants